

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over newly Fukuzawa in view Gudjonsson and Morriss. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims are directed to dual anonymous communication. As explained on page 1, lines 18-20 of the substitute specification, dual anonymous communication “means communication between two parties, where neither the originating nor terminating party knows the other party’s real subscriber identity.” The background of this application also recognizes that there are certain anonymous communication services that apply to circuit-switched networks. But the problem recognized by the inventor in this application, and not recognized by Fukuzawa, Gudjonsson, or Morriss, is that “in the IP based networks, there does not exist services that would enable anonymous calls, where neither calling nor called subscriber knows the other party’s real subscriber identity.”

In contrast to the IP communications to which the claims in this case are directed, the primary Fukuzawa is limited to traditional circuit-switched telephony. There is no reference to IP-based communication let alone to SIP-based, IP communication. The Examiner attempts to map Fukuzawa’s subscriber terminal 61a’s request for a virtual phone number to the rest station in claim 1 “the terminating party requesting a temporary SIP address to be used as an anonymous subscriber identity from a dual and not anonymity server.” But this analogy simply is unreasonable. First, a circuit-switched telephone number is not an SIP address. Second, apparatus 10a in Fukuzawa that assigns virtual phone numbers is not the claimed dual anonymity server. As explained in the background of the application of page 1 of the substitute specification, the term “anonymous” means that people involved in the communication do not

necessarily know the real identity of each other. This includes not knowing each other's names. In contrast, Fukuzawa explicitly states at column 14, lines 9-11 that "a party making a call by using a virtual telephone number is informed of the name of the subscriber who has registered the virtual telephone number." Moreover, there is no teaching in Fukuzawa that prohibits caller ID services. Assume that the first subscriber terminal has a caller ID service. When the second subscriber terminal 64a calls the first subscriber terminal 61a using the virtual phone number for the first subscriber terminal, the caller ID service identifies for the first subscriber the telephone of the calling second subscriber terminal 64a. So Fukuzawa's system is not an anonymous communication system.

The Examiner recognizes that Fukuzawa also does not teach an IP-based network and that Fukuzawa's virtual telephone number is not a SIP address. The Examiner turns to Gudjonsson, which simply teaches that the SIP protocol permits a client to send a SIP invitation to a certain user. Indeed, the section of text relied on by the Examiner from Gudjonsson at column 2, lines 23-28 simply states that the SIP protocol exists for use in IP-based networks to invite other users to communication sessions over the Internet. This text does not teach that a phone ID is SIP address as asserted by the Examiner. Indeed, neither Fukuzawa nor Gudjonsson disclose or suggest a terminating party requesting a temporary SIP address to be used as an anonymous subscriber identity from a dual anonymity server, as recited in claim 1.

The privacy approaches that Gudjonsson uses are completely different and more complex from what is claimed. Nor is there any reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would want to replace (1) Fukuzawa's circuit-switched telephone network with an IP network and (2) virtual telephone numbers with SIP addresses. This is improper hindsight reconstruction by the Examiner that would not have been reasonable to one of ordinary skill in the art in light of the

fact that Fukuzawa's circuit-switched voice network is very different from a packet-switched IP network.

The Examiner further admits that neither Fukuzawa nor Gudjonsson teaches "the terminating party B announcing the received anonymous temporary SIP address in an open forum to multiple parties in the open forum in addition to the originating party A and the terminating party B." The Examiner turns to Morriss for this missing set of features. Morriss teaches communicating chat and game messages between multiple wireless devices. A global address is assigned for chat or game messages which are broadcast over the coverage area. See, for example, Figures 6 and 7 in Morriss. Bandwidth is used more efficiently by avoiding repeated transmission of the same chat or game message to each wireless device.

The Examiner identifies paragraph 0049 from Morriss. In that paragraph, the names of the chat participants are determined "based on the wireless device address" and submitted to the Internet chat room. Users are allowed to specify a nickname to be used in the chat room. Thus, the author of a message will be identified to other chat room members by the author's nickname. It is not understood how a nickname can be reasonably equated to an anonymous temporary SIP address. These are two entirely different things. The anonymous temporary SIP address in the claims is used to set up a communications path between party A and party B in an IP communications network. In contrast, the nicknames in Morriss simply allow the other chat room members to know a name associated with the author of a particular message.

Thus, even if one of ordinary skill in the art had been motivated to implement the Morriss features in the Fukuzawa system, the resulting combination would simply convey a text message with a nickname of the author of the message. But this is not what is claimed.

Nor would one of ordinary skill in the art have been motivated for any reason to do this. First, Fukuzawa is not capable of handling this kind of Internet, chat room text message because Fukuzawa is not a packet-based system. Second, the Examiner states that one would have been motivated to use the teachings of Gudjonsson and Morriss in the Fukuzawa system "in order to use widely recognized and compatible systems and protocols across multiple users." But there is no showing by the Examiner that the circuit-switched system in Fukuzawa is in any way compatible with the IP-based network in Gudjonsson or the wireless network in Morriss. Indeed, all three references use different kinds of protocols and devices and are more incompatible than compatible.


None of the additional references applied overcomes the deficiencies of the primary rejection. For example, Graziani does not use SIP identities. Vilander deals with basic IP communication and SIP-based networks, but does not teach how to enable dual anonymous communication based on temporary SIP addresses.

The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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